

1  **THE BANK OF HEAVEN**

Matthew 6:19-20

2  **Matthew 6:19-20**

- *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal; <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

3  **Begin a study of the book of Ephesians**

- Watchman Nee entitled *Sit, Walk, Stand*
- 
- Ruth Paxson, titled *The Wealth, Walk, and Warfare of the Christian*

4  **What is wealth, riches?**

- Means different things to different people. A five year old boy with \$15.00 is rich. But \$15.00 for a 15 year old is nothing. \$15 thousand would make some men feel rich, but \$15 million wouldn't satisfy others.
- Jesus is talking about a different kind of riches.
- Jesus says that there is a BANK OF HEAVEN
- We need to store our spiritual riches there.

5  **Do you have an account in HEAVEN'S BANK?**

- Many advertisements for different banks. They're all touting what advantage you will have if you open an account at their bank.
- I want to give a commercial for the greatest bank in the world – the BANK OF HEAVEN!
- 

6  **THE RESOURCES OF HEAVEN'S BANK**

- THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE
- THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY
- THE RICHES OF CHRIST

7  **THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE**

- Ephesians 1:7: *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*
- Ephesians 2:7: *"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

8  **Grace Defined**

- Grace is unmerited favor – receiving what we didn't deserve.
  - We were the enemies of God. We had robbed God of His glory by rebelling against Him.
  - Despite our sin and rebellion, He still loved us. That is GRACE!
  - Greek word means or describes a gift from a superior to an inferior

9  **Ephesians 2:1-3**

- *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked*

*according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,<sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

10  **Ephesians 2:4-5**

- <sup>4</sup> *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loves us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

11  **He gave us the best that He had**

- Ephesians 2:8: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*
- Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Illustration: Worthless watch – Priceless Clock

12  **Romans 8:32**

- *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*
- Jesus was the most priceless jewel of heaven – God delivered Him up for us – suffered shame, pain, penalty for us.
- Christ becomes the gateway to the treasure house of heaven.

13  **The GREAT TRAGEDY**

- Most Christians live like spiritual paupers, when all of the wealth of the Bank of Heaven is constantly at our disposal.
- Dr. John R. Rice in his book *Prayer—Asking and Receiving* tells the story of an old Negro slave.
- Are we like that old black slave, asking for little when God is able and desires to give us much!
- 

14

- Jeremiah 33:3: *Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*
- Ephesians 3:20: *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*

15  **THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY**

- Ephesians 3:16: *That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.*
- 'glory' in the Old Testament comes from a root that means "heavy" or "weighty"
- 

16  **God's glory manifested**

- Moses on Mt. Sinai –
- Exodus 33:17-19: *So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken;*

*for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”<sup>18</sup> And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”<sup>19</sup> Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”*

17  **Exodus 33:20-23**

- <sup>20</sup> But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live.” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup> “So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. <sup>23</sup> “Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

•

18  **God’s glory manifested**

- Transfiguration
- Paul’s conversion
- Isaiah’s Vision – Isaiah 6:3: *And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”*
- Ephesians 2:7: *“That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

19  **THE RICHES OF CHRIST**

- Ephesians 3:8: *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*
- Many of the words and phrases in Ephesians speak of riches and wealth: grace (12) – glory (8) – inheritance (4) – riches (5) – fulness (3) – fill or filled (4)

20  **THE RICHES OF CHRIST**

- “In Christ” or its equivalent is found 27 times in Ephesians.
- Romans 8:16-17: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

21  **We are heirs of God – Let us live like it!**

- Story of Julian Ellis Morris
- Example of Elder brother of Prodigal Son
- Most of us leave God’s riches in Christ unappropriated.

22  **God’s riches are all available to us “in Christ.”**

- John 14:14: *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*
- John 15:16: *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*